

REMARKS

Claims 3-7 and 13-16 are pending in the application. Claims 3-7 and 13-16 stand rejected. Claims 4, 6, and 8-12 are canceled without prejudice or a disclaimer. Claim 3 is an independent claim.

Claims 17-22 are added. The support for each of claims 17-22 can be found in FIG. 3, 5, 16, and 17.

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Yasuhiro (J.P. Pub. 2002-258008).

Claim 3 recites an optical coupling lens system comprising “a first lens having a first rear surface, a first flat bonding surface, and a first curved surface; and a second lens having a second rear surface, a second flat bonding surface, and a second curved surface, wherein **each of the flat bonding surfaces is totally flat**; and **wherein the first and second lenses are made of a semiconductor material**.”

According to the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, a claim is anticipated only if a single prior art reference **set forth each and every feature** recited in a claim (*Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987)), **including the feature in functional language** (*In re Schreiber*, 128 F.3d 1473, 1478, 44 USPQ.2d 1429 (Fed. Cir. 1997)).

Yasuhiro, as read by the Applicant, discloses a micro-lens comprising a first lens 100 and second lens 200. According to Yasuhiro, the first lens 100 contains a curved surface 101 having a first apex; a front surface 102; and a first rear surface. In addition, Yasuhiro discloses that the second lens 200 contains a second curved surface 201 having a second apex; a second front surface 202; and a second rear surface.

However, Yasuhiro explicitly discloses that the bonding surface has “a groove 13 to [pour] an adhesive” (see abstract). As such, Yasuhiro explicitly teaches that bonding surfaces of micro-lens is not totally flat (id.).

In addition, nowhere in Yasuhiro is there a disclosure that first and second lens are made of a semiconductor material.

Therefore, Yasuhiro fails to set forth or anticipate an optical coupling lens system comprising “a first lens having a first rear surface, a first flat bonding surface, and a first curved surface; and a second lens having a second rear surface, a second flat bonding surface, and a second curved surface, wherein each of the flat bonding surfaces is totally flat; and wherein the first and second lenses are made of a semiconductor material,” as recited in claim 3.

The Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Other claims in this application are each dependent on the independent claim 3 and believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Amendment
Serial No. 10/730,594

Should the Examiner deem that there are any issues which may be best resolved by telephone, please contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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